
A New Species of *Ditassa* (Asclepiadaceae) from Espírito Santo, Brazil

Jorge Fontella Pereira and Miriam Cristina Alvarez Pereira

Herbarium Bradeanum, CP 15005, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, CEP 20031-970, Brazil

ABSTRACT. *Ditassa oberdanii*, a new species of Asclepiadaceae from remnant patches of Atlantic rainforest in Espírito Santo state, southeastern Brazil, is described, illustrated, and compared to *D. oxyphylla* Turczaninow, a similar species that is found in Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela.

A survey of the Asclepiadaceae of Espírito Santo, Brazil, turned up 44 species belonging to 16 genera. The largest genus is *Ditassa* with 11 species, including *D. oberdanii*. This species is found in remnant patches of lower montane rainforest in southeastern Brazil, in the Atlantic forest biome which is seriously threatened by human activities.

Ditassa oberdanii Fontella & Alvarez, sp. nov.

TYPE: Brazil. Espírito Santo: Santa Teresa, Rio Saltinho, 500 m, 26 Apr. 1984, Pizziolo 22 (holotype, MBML; isotype, HB). Figure 1.

Species nova *D. oxyphyllae* Turczaninow affinis, sed imprimis foliis linear-lanceolatis angustioribus, corollae lobis extus glabris et longioribus, caudiculis non geniculatis, polliniis ellipticis vel subellipticis et latioribus differt.

Vines; stems hirsute-tomentose. Leaves with flattened petioles, hirsute above, glabrescent beneath, 7–10 mm long; blade linear-lanceolate, glabrous to glabrescent with secondary nerves rectilinear, base cuneate with two glands at petiole juncture, apex acuminate, 61–69 × 10–13 mm. Inflorescence an umbelliform cyme, extra-axillary, 3–6-flowered; peduncles hirsute-tomentose, 1–2 mm. Flowers white; pedicels hirsute, 2–4 mm long. Calyx deeply lobed; lobes ovate-lanceolate, hirsute outside, glabrous inside, margins hyaline, 2–2.5 × 1–1.5 mm, with 1–2 minute inside glands at base of each sinus; corolla subcampanulate; tube glabrous outside, pubescent inside, 0.8–1.0 mm long; lobes linear-lanceolate, glabrous outside, pubescent inside on upper half at margin, with longer hairs at apex, 4–5 × 1–1.3 mm. Corona lobes filiform, twice the length of the gynostegium, upper part papillose, the outer 3–3.2 × 0.1–0.3 mm, apex slightly curved, the inner 3.5–4 × 0.2–0.3 mm, apex curving in-

ward. Anthers rectangular or subrectangular, ca. 0.75 × 0.57 mm, appendages membranaceous, suborbicular, ca. 0.42 mm long. Corpusculum ovate, 0.20–0.22 × 0.08–0.09 mm; translator arms filiform, 0.06–0.09 mm long; pollinia elliptic or subelliptic, longer than corpusculum, slightly curved, 0.24–0.28 × 0.09–0.17 mm. Stigmatic appendix apiculate.

This new species is related to *Ditassa oxyphylla* Turczaninow, from which it differs mainly by the linear-lanceolate leaves, longer corolla lobes (4–5 mm), which are glabrous outside, straighter translator arms, and wider (0.09–0.17 mm), elliptic to subelliptic pollinia. In contrast, *D. oxyphylla* has ovate-lanceolate to elliptic leaves, corolla lobes 2–3 mm long, geniculate translator arms, and oblong to subclavate pollinia (0.06–0.08 mm wide).

Ditassa oxyphylla is found in Colombia, Venezuela, and Brazil, where it occurs in Pernambuco, Alagoas, and Bahia states; in Bahia it is found in caatinga, remnant liana forest (Mata de Cipó) and pastures, from 500–600 m above sea level (Pereira & Silva, 1973; Pereira et al., 1989).

Ditassa oberdanii is named in honor of Oberdan José Pereira, Professor of Botany at the Espírito Santo Federal University (UFES), who has contributed greatly to the study of the flora of Espírito Santo, Brazil.

Acknowledgments. We thank the CNPq for Jorge Fontella-Pereira's research fellowship, the curators of R, RB, GUA, MBML, VIES, and CVRD, Dorothy Sue Dunn de Araujo for the translation of the text into English, and Gloria Gonçalves for the sketch.

Literature Cited

- Pereira, J. F. & N. M. F. da Silva. 1973. Estudos em Asclepiadaceae III. Sobre a identidade de *Nematuris volubilis*. Arch. Jard. Bot. Rio de Janeiro 19: 223–226.
———, M. da C. Valente, R. Harley & N. M. F. da Silva. 1989. Contribuição ao estudo das Asclepiadaceae Brasileiras—XXIV. Checklist preliminar do Estado da Bahia. Rodriguésia 41(67): 81–115.

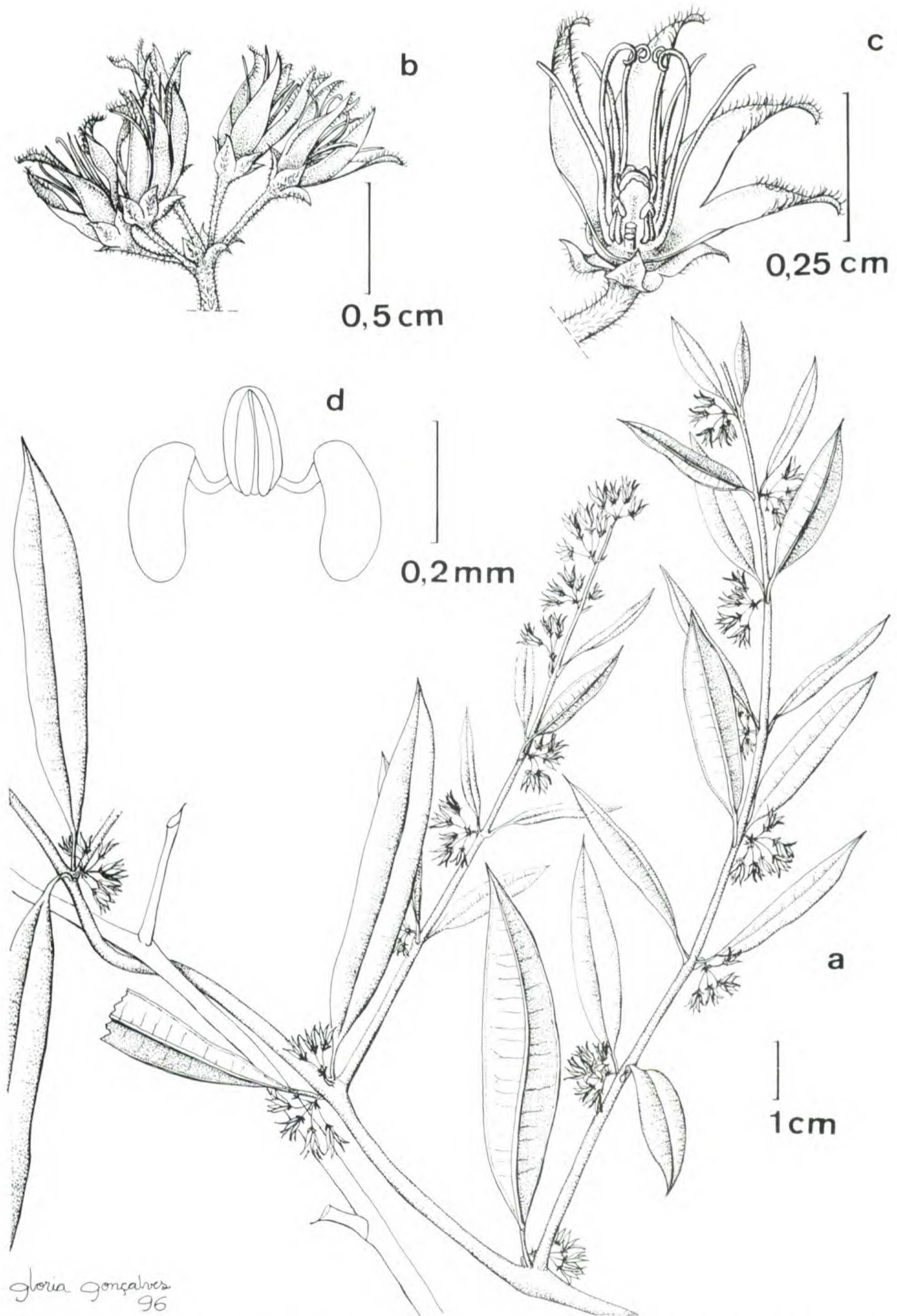


Figure 1. *Ditassa oberdanii* Fontella & Alvarez, drawn from the holotype, *Pizzolo 22*, MBML. —a. Habit. —b. Inflorescence. —c. Flower, one corolla lobe and one corona element removed. —d. Pollinarium.